

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3082

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LI
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER

REF: STATE 099551

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL, I BRIEFED PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON MAY 4 CONCERNING THE MEETING TO BE HELD IN VIENNA ON MAY 19 BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.
2. PRESIDENT TOLBERT RESPONDED WARMLY, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THIS EFFORT OF THE U.S. TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. DIPLOMACY VIS-A-VIS SOUTHERN AFRICA AND FOR THE RECOGNITION WHICH THE U.S. GIVES TO HIS OWN ROLE IN THE "COMMON CAUSE" OF FURTHERING PEACEFUL AND EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA.
3. TOLBERT SAID THAT HE REALIZED THE TALKS BETWEEN MONDALE AND VORSTER WOULD BE ONLY EXPLORATORY AND SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR THE TWO MEN TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. IF IS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, TO LET VORSTER KNOW WHAT THE U.S. WILL INSIST ON SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE MISLED INTO THINKING THAT HE CAN GAIN THROUGH DELAYING TACTICS. TOLBERT RECALLED THAT DURING THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO MONROVIA, TOLBERT HAD ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE

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BUT THAT AFRICANS WILL BE MORE WILLING TO GIVE HIM THE TIME REQUIRED IF HE WOULD SHOW THE SINCERE INTENTION TO MOVE FORWARD.

4. TOLBERT WENT ON TO STRESS HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. MUST TAKE AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS IF THE CONTINENT IS TO BE ABLE TO RESIST TRENDS LEADING TOWARD COMMUNISM. HE CHARACTERIZED THE PENDING MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING AS THE

KIND OF FORTHRIGHT MOVE WHICH SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO AFRICANS THE KIND OF ROLE WHICH THE U.S. WANTS TO PLAY IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. TOLBERT SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESPECT THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IT IS ALSO INCUMBENT ON INTERESTED PARTIES TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICA TO "DO WHAT IS RIGHT" IN THE CASE OF NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. HE LIKENED THE SITUATION TO THAT IN A FAMILY IN WHICH PRESSURES ARE EXPERTED ON A RECALCITRANT FAMILY MEMBER. "WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREE ENTERPRISE AND DEMOCRACY MUST STAND TOGETHER," HE SAID. "IF WE DON'T, WE SHALL BECOME INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE. THERE SHOULD BE NO PASSIVITY IN OUR POSITION. IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO BE ON THE OFFENSIVE. THE DEMOCRACIES NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THEIR INFLUENCE BECOME DOMINANT IN AFRICA BECAUSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FLIRTED WITH COMMUNISM ARE BECOMING DISENCHANTED AS THEY SEE THAT COMMUNISM DOES NOT SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. I BELIEVE THAT THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, OPERATING UNDER THE PHILOSOPHY OF WHAT I CALL "HUMANISTIC CAPITALISM" IS AN APPROACH WHICH MOST CLOSELY FITS AFRICAN TRADITIONS."

5. TOLBERT WENT ON TO DISCUSS HIS FEELINGS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE, NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE PEAL, DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO KINSHASA, FOUND THAT MOBUTO HAD A STRONG FEELING OF FRUSTRATION OVER THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS FRIENDS AND TOLD PEAL THAT HE FELT "ABANDONED." TOLBERT SAID THAT "THE FAILURE OF ZAIRE WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE A FAILURE OF THAT WHICH ZAIRE HAS BEEN PORTRAYED TO STAND FOR. DEFEAT IN ZAIRE WOULD BE A LESSON TO OTHERS AND A DEFEAT FOR US ALL. IF ZAIRE FAILS, ONE BY ONE OTHERS WOULD BE SWALLOWED UP." CONFIDENTIAL

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6. I ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DID NOT INTEND TO SIT BY AND JUST LET THINGS HAPPEN, THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO TAKE AND TO MAINTAIN THE INITIATIVE IN ACHIEVING JUST SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS. CARTER

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